IMPLEMENTING LOCAL ALTERNATIVES TO THE “ILLEGAL ALIENS” LCSH

REPORT FROM THE SAC WORKING GROUP ON ALTERNATIVES TO LCSH “ILLEGAL ALIENS”

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text of the draft report:
tinyurl.com/alamw20draft

slides:
tinyurl.com/alamw20slides
BACKGROUND
June 2014: Dartmouth Submits Proposals
Jan. 2016: ALA Council Resolution
May 2016: HR 4926 “Stopping Partisan Policy at the Library of Congress Act” Introduced
Sept. 2016: Public Law 114-223 is Signed Into Law
METHODOLOGY
SOME QUESTIONS ASKED

- Does your library catalog represent your single library, your library system, or a consortium of library systems?
- What changes has your library / library system / consortium made to this subject heading?
- Were the changes one-time, or are new records with the subject headings accounted for in your approach? If you made one-time changes, do you plan to address new records with the "Illegal aliens" LCSH?
- Did you have to make changes in your discovery interface in order to include the changes you made to the subject heading? If so, what actions did you take?
- What challenges did you encounter with making these changes?
- Were library / organizational administration or other parts of the library involved in the decision to make these changes?
- Were these changes communicated to the organization or the public, and if so, how?
SURVEY RESULTS
ILS of respondents

- Innovative Sierra: 24.4%
- Koha: 4.9%
- Follett Destiny: 4.9%
- SirsiDynix Workflows: 2.4%
- Innovative Polaris: 2.4%
- SirsiDynix Symphony: 7.3%
- SirsiDynix Horizon: 9.8%
- Innovative Millennium: 9.8%
- Ex Libris Alma: 9.8%
- Ex Libris Voyager: 7.3%
Discovery layers of respondents

- Enterprise: 2.4%
- Ex Libris Primo: 12.2%
- Innovative Millennium: 2.4%
- SirsiDynix Enterprise: 4.9%
- Proquest Summon: 14.6%
- EBSCO Discovery: 14.6%
- Blacklight: 14.6%
- none: 24.4%
TRENDS IN THE RESULTS

Most who made revisions changed the heading to “Undocumented immigrants”

Primary approaches:
- Retaining authorized LCSH and adding alternate terms
- Replacing authorized LCSH
- Retaining authorized LCSH and displaying alternate terms
FREQUENTLY REPORTED CHALLENGES

- deciding how to make changes on a consortium-wide basis
- deciding on which alternative vocabulary/terminology to use
- unanticipated bibliographic maintenance, especially confusion around “aliens” versus extraterrestrials
- forgetting to revise headings that aren’t alphabetically near “Illegal aliens” (like “Children of illegal aliens”)
- keeping up with revising headings in newly imported bibliographic records
- workload/staffing issues
- database syncing issues causing delay in displaying revisions
- working around automated authority control systems
CONCLUSION
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prescriptive recommendations were not possible
- Survey respondents’ most frequent comment was that they wish they’d made this change sooner
- Anything is better than nothing
QUESTIONS?

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